



State of Connecticut
Department of Aging and Disability Services
Office of the Commissioner

Testimony before the Public Safety Committee

March 17, 2022

HB 5420 - An Act Concerning Mental Health Needs of And Services for Police Officers, Certain Requirements Regarding Police Training and Certain Reports

Senator Osten, Representative Horn, Senator Champagne, Representative Howard and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee - my name is Amy Porter, Commissioner of the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS), and I thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on House Bill 5420.

Our department strongly supports Section 2 of the bill. If enacted, this section of the bill would ensure that the disability community is involved in the development of a training curriculum that increases awareness and maximizes the effectiveness of interactions between police officers and members of the disability community. Including the voices and perspectives of the disability community in the development of new training creates an opportunity for first-hand valuable and practical information that will instill greater awareness and sensitivity in the recruits and police officers. This collaboration and partnership between the disability community and the Police Officer Standards and Training Council is vital to the goal of equal and fair treatment of the disability community by law enforcement.

We are grateful to the committee for including Section 2 in House Bill 5420 and hope you will continue to support that provision.

I thank the committee for your attention to this important matter. I would be happy to assist the committee in any way with your work on this proposal.